

Vehicles (MPV) for anti-LWE operations arises, necessary steps are taken by this Ministry to fulfill those requirements on immediate basis. The MPVs are designed for protection against limited quantity of explosives whereas Left Wing Extremists have been using very high quantity of explosives, resulting in extensive damage to these vehicles.

(c) Besides MPVs, other type of vehicles like buses, cars, light/medium bullet proof vehicles are used in LWE affected areas for movement of troops and other equipments.

Development of Hyderabad-Karnataka region under article 371(j)

1111. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the provision of Article 371(J) for the development of Hyderabad-Karnataka region (*i.e.* Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadagiri, Raichur and Koppal);

(b) whether Central Government had made any financial support to this area;

(c) whether there is any proposal submitted by the State Government for the development of Hyderabad-Karnataka region (*i.e.* Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadagiri, Raichur and Koppal); and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) Article 371(J) of the Constitution of India is mentioned below:

371J (1) The President may, by order made with respect to the State of Karnataka, provide for any special responsibility of the Governor for—

- (i) Establishment of a separate development board for Hyderabad-Karnataka region with the provision that a report on the working of the board will be placed each year before the State Legislative Assembly;
- (ii) Equitable allocation of funds for developmental expenditure over the said region, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole; and
- (iii) Equitable opportunities and facilities for the people belonging to the said region, in matters of public employment, education and vocational training, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole.

(2) An order made under sub-clause (c) of clause (1) may provide for—

- (i) reservation of a proportion of seats in educational and vocational training

institutions in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region for students who belongs to that region by birth or by domicile; and

- (ii) identification of posts or classes of posts under the State Government and in any body or organization under the control of the State Government in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region and reservation of a proportion of such posts for persons who belong to that region by birth or by domicile and for appointment thereto by direct recruitment or by promotion or in any other manner as may be specified in the order.
- (b) No financial support has been made by the Central Government to this area.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

Scrapping of Official Secrets Act, 1923

1112. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has recommended scrapping of 90 year old Official Secrets Act, 1923 (OSA); and

(b) if so, the action Government proposes to take to scrap the OSA based on the recommendations of ARC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) Sir, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), in its Report of June 2006, had, *inter-alia*, recommended that the Official Secrets Act (OSA), 1923 should be repealed, and substituted by a chapter in the National Security Act, containing provisions relating to official secrets.

(b) The ARC had made this recommendation ostensibly on the ground that the Law Commission had recommended in 1971 that an 'umbrella Act' should be passed to bring together all Acts/Laws relating to national security. However, in 1980, the National Security Act (NSA) was enacted only to provide for preventive powers to deal with likely threats to maintenance of public order and security of the country etc., besides maintenance of essential services. In such a situation, the Government decided not to repeal the OSA as the other enactments relating to national security such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, Chapters 6 and 7 of the Indian Penal Code etc. have also not been merged in the NSA.